5/24/76

Dear Les,

Here are a couple of WxPost pieces under the novel and original title "The Heroin Trail." I've not read them. Paul Valentine introduced me to Dash. They worked together in the early days of the King case. Dash has not been on it since so we've had no occasion for contact. He appeared to be a fine guy. Paul had a lot of respect for him as a reporter.

Paul came to the Post from the Atlanta Constitution with Patterson, who now edits its St. Petersberg paper. Recently, now that it is pure and proper, Patterson condemned what the FBI did to King and in the context of defending McGill. The Post reprinted it on the oped page. When St. Edgar was alive and Patterson was the Post's managing editor, he would not touch my work on the King assassination. Not that he faulted it. I was not a Post staffer. Imagine a managing editor who never serialized and hadn't heard of it!

I don't think it will get back to you because I don't think anything is going to happen, but yesterday I wrote a letter to a friend who is a senior editor at Bantam of which I did not think to make a copy for you. I should have because your name is the only other one I mentioned. Here is what it is:

I got to thinking how I would ever pay for xeroxing of just the inventory if the judge rules on 6/11 that the Feebs have to inventory the King files for me. There are not fewer than 203,500 documents. I met Walter Galnze through Dick Gregory, to whom I'd been introduced by a mutual friend back in 1969. Dick turned on briefly. I had much of Frame-Up written then, with more content than it had when published. Dick was sure he'd get it published, through Walter. He didn't realize the difference between publishing him and me. He also introduced me to his lecture bureau in Boston. I wasted the cost of a trip there because while they, too, turned on, Mark Lane was able to kill it. They were booking nobody on King. When they told me that Lane claimed an exclusive although they were booking Clay Shaw I offered the first speech to any black group on King without fee. They never arranged it. I believe Dick could have arranged some appearances. He didn't. Maybe, in retrospect, this bothers him. Other things do.

One that may is his non-response when he was still in Chicago and I was on to Danny Groth, the Hampton/Clark murderer. I asked Dick to try to arrange for some further checking on Groth becuase I could not get to Chicago. Who knows what might not have happened it he had done as I asked? I had a long section on the Panthers and Groth in the unedited book.

What I am sure embarrasses is my cautioning when he went off on that crazt kick last year that led to the Congressional disaster on assassination investigations. I tried to get Dick's feet on the ground, to do this responsibly as he could not through people like Lane, Schoenmann and Groden, all of whom I know. He set up a new whitewash with the Rockefeller Commission, exactly as I had forecast. This alone, I am inclined to think, will keep Dick from offering any help. I also don't think he once mentioned Frame-Up in any of his appearances. I'm inclined to attribute this to the influence of Lane and Schoenmann.

In writing Walter, who is really part of the black community although of German ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ birth, I told him frankly that in all these years you are the only black man who has been of help, I think with a brief mention of your stories and work. It is only in this sense that I used your name. I also told him that despite my own situation I had given Jim 100% of a small contribution tom work of which Walter knew and that paying the search and xeroxing costs had been and would be hard for me. I've paid them all. This was bedause Walter knows my situation and may know others who may want to help with these court and xeroxing costs. I should get copies of everything of worth when possible. If I do not they may disappear. So, while I do not think Dick will check with you, this is in case he does. Best,